SI. Name of Chest Clinic RNTCP No. Districts of Delhi	TB cases detected during 2001-02
18. SGM	1847
19. Shahadara	1758
20. SPM Marg	828
Total: No.	27382
Rate/lac	198

Bio-terrorism

†44**.** SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make the labs of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) capable to combat the threat of bio-terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take assistance from foreign agencies for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of India has given higher priority to strengthen the country's capacity to combat the threat of bio-terrorism. It has developed plan to train the staff, and upgrade laboratories of various national level institutes including those of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR has developed a detailed plan of action for the purpose.

(b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, majority of its Institutes are disease specific. Therefore, keeping in mind the expertise available they have been identified with specific organism. Because of the infectious nature of these organisms they are needed to be handled in specifically designed bio-safety laboratories. A BSL-3 facility is being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

commissioned at Pune at a cost of Rs. 14 crores. ICMR is assessing the need to have more such facilities at other centres.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that these laboratories are of international standards, the assistance of experts of Centres of Disease Control, Atlanta, USA has been taken in vetting the design prepared by Indian architects.

Polio cases

45. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of polio cases reported from different States of the country as on the 30th June, 2002;

(b) the names of States from where these cases were reported;

(c) the steps being taken to make the country polio-free during next five years; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) A Statement is annexed *(See* below).

(c) and (d) The national goal is to eradicate polio in the country and obtain polio-free Certification by 2005. Every year, the annual strategies for achieving this goal is formulated and implemented on the basis of advice of National and International experts. Every year Mop-up rounds are conducted in the districts and adjoining area where new case are detected. Besides this, sub-national Immunization days are conducted throughout the State where cases are reported to be increasing. National Immunization Day is conducted all over the country when all children below 5 years of age are given polio drop two times during winter months. Every year the annual strategy for achieving this goal is formulated and implemented on the basis of advice of national and International experts.